

Governor Riley Announces Fort McClellan Approved for Hurricane Refugees as Part of Operation Golden Rule

MONTGOMERY – Governor Bob Riley on Friday announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved a plan to use military police dormitories at a former military base in Anniston to shelter those who lost their homes due to Hurricane Katrina. Governor Riley toured the facility at Fort McClellan on Thursday as part of the state's effort called "Operation Golden Rule" to find suitable housing for those in Alabama and elsewhere who have no home as a result of the hurricane.

"This will allow us to provide long-term shelter to about 1,000 hurricane victims," said Governor Riley. "Our goal with Operation Golden Rule is to find housing for 10,000 evacuees and this approval from FEMA is great news. I appreciate FEMA's assistance and especially the community's help. The community has opened their hearts to these storm victims and really made this possible."

Contractors have already begun work on getting the buildings in shape. The federal government will reimburse the Joint Powers Authority for funds already spent. The Joint Powers Authority is a non-profit association created to redevelop Fort McClellan after it was closed.

Hurricane evacuees must first register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA in order to be eligible for the assistance.

Individuals who want to help with Operation Golden Rule are urged to call 877-273-5018 or volunteer online at www.servealabama.gov.